

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 03508 180914Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5804

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3508

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EXDIS

FOR NEA ONLY

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, JO, US
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S STOPOVER IN CAIRO

REF: A) AMMAN 3502, B) STATE 097555

1. WHILE OUR RELATIONSHIP HERE WILL MOST CERTAINLY SURVIVE, HANDLING SECRETARY'S STOPOVER IN CAIRO WAS NOT OUR FINEST HOUR IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH OUR FRIENDS. HAVING JUST SEEN HUSSEIN AS INSTRUCTED (REFTELS) ON ATHERTON MISSION IT WAS JUST A LITTLE BIT UNSETTLING ONLY A FEW HOURS LATER TO FIND ON THE AIRWAVES REPORTS OF SECRETARY'S REFUELING STOP TALK WITH KAMEL. HUSSEIN IS CERTAINLY GOING TO WONDER WHAT GVO THINK WE ARE DOING? AND IN THE LONG RUN CREDIBILITY, OR LACK OF IT, IS NOT UNIMPORATANT HERE.

2. CERTAINLY WE HEARD A REPORT YESTERDAY MORNING BY ISRAELI RADIO OUT OF AL-AHRAM THAT SECRETARY MIGHT STOP OVER, BUT SUCH HAVE NOT BEEN TRUSTWORTHY
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SOURCES OF NEWS (OR INSTRUCTIONS) IN PAST. I HOPE WE CAN DO BETTER NEXT TIME. DO YOU HAVE ANY THOUGHTS ON HOW TO EXPLAIN THIS HERE, SINCE SUSPICION OF US-EGYPTIAN (AND ISRAELI) COLLUSION IS NOT FAR BELOW THE SURFACE.

3. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, I PRESUME WE HAVE DECIDED NOT

TO TELL HUSSEIN ANYTHING ABOUT OUR IDEAS ON THE
WEST BANK AND INSTEAD LET HIM PUT IT TOGETHER ON
THE BASIS OF THE NUMEROUS PRESS REPORTS NOW FILTERING
THROUGH. FROM HERE THIS LOOKS LIKE AN UNWISE
DECISION, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF GROWING NUMBER
OF REPORTS THIS MORNING SOURCED TO SECRETARY'S PARTY
THAT PRESIDENT WILL SOON GIVE A MAJOR SPEECH SETTING
OUT ELEMENTS OF OUR POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST.
I HOPE YOU WILL REVIEW THIS POSITION AND LET
ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.
PICKERING

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